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TRAINING AND RESEARCH: UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTE FOR TRAINING AND RESEARCH

PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1994-1995

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.59

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

1. By operative paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 of draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.59, the General Assembly would:

(a) Reaffirm that the funding of all the administrative budget and training programmes of the Institute shall be covered from voluntary contributions, donations, special-purpose grants and executing agency overheads;

(b) Request the Secretary-General to provide for the United Nations Institute for Training and Research in the future and retroactively since the move of its headquarters to Geneva at fair costs, based on the costs borne by the United Nations itself and ensuring an equal treatment with other United Nations entities, office space in Geneva, as well as administrative and logistic support;

(c) Also request the Secretary-General to provide for the United Nations Institute for Training and Research at fair costs, based on the costs borne by the United Nations itself and ensuring an equal treatment with other United Nations entities, liaison office space in New York, and request, within this context, the Board of Trustees to give the necessary attention to these matters with a view to avoiding any negative financial impact on the Institute.

2. The Secretary-General understands that in operative paragraphs 4 and 5 of draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.59, he is requested to provide office space in Geneva, as well as administrative and logistic support and liaison office space

in New York, to be covered by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) from voluntary contributions, donations, special-purpose grants and executing agency overheads, at the costs borne by the United Nations for renting office space for its entities financed from the regular budget.

3. In its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986, the General Assembly decided that the Recommendations of the Group of High-Level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations, 1/ should be implemented by the Secretary-General and the relevant organs and bodies of the United Nations. It will be recalled that in recommendation 36 of the Recommendations, it is stated that Member States and other users occupying office space on United Nations premises should pay a rent based on current commercial rates.

4. It is the understanding of the Secretary-General that the term "other users" was clearly intended to refer to any bodies or activities funded outside the regular budget of the United Nations, so as to ensure that the regular budget did not bear costs that should properly be borne by extrabudgetary resources. Accordingly, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research falls under the term "other users" in recommendation 36.

5. In accordance with the procedure established to conform to recommendation 36, the rental rate charged by the United Nations to entities occupying space in United Nations buildings is based on an average of the commercial rates that the United Nations is charged.

6. Such a rate for Geneva should be that of the Palais des Nations based on actual costs incurred for maintenance and utilities. However, at Petit Saconnex, the rate charged to "other users" includes (a) reimbursement for rental costs paid by the United Nations Office at Geneva; (b) reimbursement for general operating costs incurred by the United Nations Office at Geneva; and (c) the charge for rental of furniture, representing the proportional share of the total expenditures incurred by the United Nations for this purpose at Petit Saconnex. Consequently, the rate applicable to "other users", including UNITAR, at Petit Saconnex amounts to 70 per cent of the rate charged at the Palais des Nations and is adjusted only to cover actual expenses incurred.

7. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.59, the Secretary-General would continue to provide UNITAR with office space as well as administrative and logistic support in Geneva, at fair costs and on an equal basis with "other users", so that the actual costs incurred by the United Nations itself could be reimbursed. Should UNITAR require office space in New York for a liaison office, the Secretary-General would ensure that it is charged to UNITAR on the same basis.

Notes

1/ The Recommendations are contained in the report of the Group, which was issued as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 49 (A/41/49).